

of the full committee. I was extremely gratified when Frank agreed—and became just the 12th staff director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history.

His legacy remains on the committee in the many excellent staff members he hired and trained. And he will be missed by the hundreds of members and staff throughout the House and Senate who came to know and admire him. I have no doubt that many will join me in reaching out to his wife, Amy and their four children, and express their sympathy at her loss and their gratitude for having known Frank Cushing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide the obituary for Frank in order for my colleagues to understand what a truly remarkable person and public servant he was:

FRANK MARTIN CUSHING

APRIL 9, 1952–FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Frank Cushing, loving husband, son, father, grandfather, brother, and mentor died at his home in Falls Church on Monday, February 6, 2012. He was 59 years old.

Widely respected for his deep faith, integrity, and love of family and country, Cushing left an indelible mark in public policy through more than 30 years of public service in the House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and Washington, DC business community. Cushing was widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Washington concerning the congressional appropriations and Federal budget processes.

Cushing graduated from the University of Idaho in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and completed graduate level work in public policy administration at the University of Idaho and Boise State University in 1974–75. He came to Washington, DC in 1977 to work as a legislative assistant for Senator James McClure of Idaho. Cushing served as clerk of the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for Chairman McClure from 1981–84 under full committee Chairman Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and as staff director for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee under Chairman McClure from 1984–91.

Following a three-year stint as Corporate Vice President of a Fortune 50 energy firm, Cushing returned to Capitol Hill in 1995 to serve as Clerk and Staff Director of the House Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD) and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for then Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis of California under full Committee Chairman Bob Livingston of Louisiana. He left the Hill in 2003 to become a partner at a firm specializing in appropriations consulting but returned to the House in 2005 as the Clerk and Staff Director of the full House Appropriations Committee under newly elected Chairman Lewis. Cushing was the twelfth Clerk and Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history and today his portrait hangs in the U.S. Capitol with his predecessors dating back to 1865.

Cushing retired from the Hill in 2008 to become a partner in a D.C. law and consulting firm where he devoted his time and energy to public policy, particularly relating to funding for science and education. His integrity, compassion, pragmatism, and masterful political skills were admired by House Members, Senators, and staff on both sides of the aisle. Cushing also served as an At-Large Trustee of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho.

Cushing is survived by his wife, Amy Hamner of Falls Church, VA; his mother, Eliza-

beth Cushing of Arlington, VA; his brother, William P. Cushing, Jr. of Norristown, PA.; 4 children, Christina Abel of Caldwell, ID, Jennifer Dewing of Crandon, WI, Amy Catherine Cushing of Falls Church, VA, and Nathaniel Allen Cushing, of Falls Church, VA; and 12 grandchildren. Friends and family were blessed to join him at home over the last weeks of his life on earth for a time of reflection, confirmation, and joy.

A memorial service celebrating the life and memory of Frank Martin Cushing will be held on Monday, February 13 at 3 p.m. at Columbia Baptist Church, 103 West Columbia Street, Falls Church, VA, where Cushing served as a deacon.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be designated to the Frank Martin Cushing Public Policy Scholarship through the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147, as a part of the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research for which Cushing served on the Advisory Board. Contributions may also be directed to CrossLink International, 427 North Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE
HAWKINS FLOWERS ON HER
112TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 112th birthday to Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers.

Ms. Flowers, or Gram as she is lovingly called by her family, was born on March 20, 1900 in Madison, Florida. Throughout her life, Gram has always taken care of others. Whether friends, families, neighbors or strangers, Gram always was ready to help others in any way she could. Her granddaughter, whom she has lived with in Riviera Beach since 2005, reflected that Gram lived her life in adherence to Ecclesiastes 9:10 which states that: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

With a special place in her heart for helping children, Gram had a in-home day care center in the 60's and 70's and has been a foster grandparent. As the oldest of three daughters and four sons born to Date Hawkins, she left school in the third grade to help care for her siblings. However, she still learned how to read and write and provided her grandchildren with help with their homework.

Gram also has a knack for cooking, working as a cook at Florida State University and also as a private home cook. Although she personally has a sweet tooth and loves Coca-Cola, sweet tea, and sweet potato pie, as a cook, one of her specialties was homemade biscuits. In addition to filling others up with delicious food, she also fills them with wisdom. One of her trademark sayings is "Be careful how you treat people. Because you're up today doesn't mean you won't be down tomorrow." This sentiment was something my grandmother used to also share with me and are words we should all live by every day in caring for others.

To that end, Gram always was active in her church, the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in Tallahassee. She believes that it is

her walk with Jesus that keeps her going strong. This strength allowed her until a few years ago to visit the sick and shut-in members of her church. Although she learned to drive, Gram never got her drivers' license or owned a car so she would often walk to make these visits. Even at 111, Gram still tries to help out in any way she can.

Mr. Speaker, on February 20, 2012, Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers will be celebrating her 112th birthday with her son's family in Florida. Although she has survived her six siblings and nine children, she will be surrounded by a multitude of family: 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, 16 great-great-great grandchildren, and 4 great-great-great-great grandchildren. It is my distinguished honor to wish her a very happy birthday and congratulate her on reaching this milestone and dedicating her life to caring for others.

HONORING PRINCIPAL YVETTE
AGUIRRE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a pillar of the Sunset Park community, an educator and an advocate for Brooklyn's children. Today, a wing of PS 169 is being dedicated to honor Mrs. Aguirre's years of service to the children of Sunset Park. As a teacher, Mrs. Aguirre saw firsthand the needs and potential of our children. She recognized that, when given the resources and opportunity to learn in the right environment, every child can become a successful member of the community. In that regard, she has been a steadfast champion for relieving overcrowding in our schools and neighborhoods. She successfully led a campaign that united the parents of Sunset Park and helped them coalesce behind a vision of better schools, smaller class sizes and a stronger community.

In 1997, Sunset Park opened Public School 24, an institution that has now served thousands of our community's children. Mrs. Aguirre became the school's first Principal. In that role she was always committed to ensuring students and classrooms were held to high expectations. That guiding philosophy, coupled with strong faculty development and mentoring, served as a recipe for success for all those who passed through PS 24's doors over the years.

While Mrs. Aguirre is now retired, Sunset Park's residents remember her many contributions. Naming a school wing after this prominent leader, woman, educator, principal and mentor is a fitting tribute to her legacy. The name of Principal Yvette Aguirre will remind students and the community of the work of a proud Latina, a positive role model and a champion for education.

Mr. Speaker, talented and passionate educators are a gift. They give of themselves tirelessly in an effort to improve our communities and ensure our children have access to opportunity. Mrs. Aguirre is one of those educators and, today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her many achievements.